

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1, 2 and 15-17 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A file system configured by one or a plurality of volumes, comprising:

a setting unit setting policy attribute data indicating a policy on which file management is based, in correspondence with path information of a directory; and

a file managing unit managing a file based on policy data composed of the path information of the directory and the policy attribute data.

2. (currently amended) A file system configured by one or a plurality of volumes, comprising:

a setting unit setting policy attribute data in correspondence with path information of a directory; and

an assigning unit assigning policy attribute data of a directory so as to be inherited to a subdirectory, or assigning specified policy attribute data indicating a policy on which file management is based to a the subdirectory.

3. (original) The file system according to claim 1, wherein information indicating whether or not to require a path search is registered in correspondence with the policy attribute data.

4. (original) The file system according to claim 3, further comprising a control table storing information indicating a directory to be searched next, wherein pointer information pointing to a storage location within said control table is registered as policy attribute data of a directory.

5. (original) The file system according to claim 4, wherein checkpoint information indicating path information of a directory yet to be generated is registered to said control table for the directory.

6. (original) The file system according to claim 4, wherein checkpoint information registered to said control table is searched, and a directory for which the checkpoint information is set is searched.

a' 7. (original) The file system according to claim 2, wherein when a name of a directory is changed, policy attribute data of a parent directory is inherited to a subdirectory if policy attribute data is not specified for the subdirectory, and specified policy attribute data is assigned to a subdirectory if the policy attribute data is specified for the subdirectory.

8. (original) The file system according to claim 2, wherein:
whether or not to require inheritance is predefined for the policy attribute data; and
policy attribute data of a parent directory is assigned so as to be inherited to a subdirectory if the policy attribute data of the parent directory is data which is requested to be inherited, or specified policy attribute data is assigned to the subdirectory if the policy attribute data of the parent directory is data which is not requested to be inherited.

9. (original) The file system according to claim 1, further comprising a policy violation registering unit registering policy violation information indicating a policy attribute violation to corresponding policy attribute data, if a file operation which violates the policy attribute data is performed.

10. (original) The file system according to claim 1, further comprising a policy recovering unit causing a file or a directory which violates a policy to comply with the policy, and deleting corresponding policy violation information.

11. (original) The file system according to claim 1, wherein information of a total size of files within a directory is registered as policy attribute data of the directory.

12. (original) The file system according to claim 1, wherein when a file is stored in an archive file, policy data composed of path information of a directory and policy attribute data is stored in the archive file.

13. (original) The file system according to claim 12, further comprising a registering unit reading and registering the policy data stored as a hidden file in the archive file, when the file is backed up.

a1 14. (original) The file system according to claim 13, wherein when a file is restored, a comparison is made between path information of a directory to be generated and path information of a directory within the policy data stored as the hidden file in the archive file, and the policy attribute data is set for the directory the path information of which matches.

15. (currently amended) A file management method for use in a file system configured by one or a plurality of volumes, comprising:

setting policy attribute data indicating a policy on which file management is based, in correspondence with path information of a directory; and

managing a file based on policy data composed of the path information of the directory and the policy attribute data.

16. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

setting policy attribute data indicating a policy on which file management is based, in correspondence with path information of a directory; and

managing a file based on policy data composed of the path information of the directory and the policy attribute data.

17. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

setting policy attribute data indicating a policy on which file management is based, in correspondence with path information of a directory; and

assigning at least one of policy attribute data set for a the directory so as to be inherited to a subdirectory, or and assigning specified policy attribute data set in the subdirectory to a corresponding subdirectory when moving the directory.